

Department of Historic Resources
Reconnaissance Level Survey

Accomack

DHR Id#: 001-0027-0008

Resource Identification

Property Name(s): WFF # B-129 - Air Control Fire and Crash
Building {Current}
Property Date: 1955
Address(s): O'Reilly Street {}
County/Independent City: Accomack
City: Chincoteague
State, Zip: Virginia 23337
USGS Quad Name: CHINCOTEAGUE WEST
Surrounding area: Rural

National Register Eligibility Status

Property is not Historic (50 years or older)

Resource Description

Ownership Status: Public - Federal
Acreage: 0.5

Primary Resource Exterior Component Description:

<u>Component</u>	<u>Comp Type/Form</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Material Treatment</u>
Chimneys	Chimneys - None		
Foundation	Foundation - Slab	Concrete	Foundation - Poured
Porch	Porch - None		
Roof	Roof - Gable		Roof - Not visible
Windows	Windows - Sash, double-hung	Vinyl	Windows - Replacement Sash
Structural System	Structural System - Masonry	Concrete	Structural System - Parged
Windows	Windows - Fixed	Aluminum	Windows - Replacement Sash

Site Description: Located on a level paved area west of runway 17-35.

Secondary Resource Desc: Small Fuel Tank (B-130)

WUZIT Count:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Wuzit Types</u>	<u>Historic?</u>
1	Fire Station	Historic

NR Resource Count:

Individual Resource Information

WUZIT: Fire Station

Est. Date of Construction:	1955 {Owner/written data}	Accessed?	Yes
Primary Resource?	Yes	Number of Stories:	0.0
Architectural Style:	Other	Condition:	Good
Interior Plan Type:	Irregular	Threats to Resource:	None Known

Description: The building, made of parged concrete block, has a complex rectangular plan, with a central core, oriented northwest to southeast, and covered by a low pitch (almost flat) gable roof. The central core is seven bays long. A two-bay long section, covered with a shed roof, projects from the core to the northeast and southwest on the southeast end and another one-bay long section, covered by a gable roof, projects toward the southwest only from the northwest end of the core. A one-story section, covered by a shallow pitch asymmetrical gable roof, is located on the northwest end of the building. The roof materials are not visible. Large sectional, roll top doors made of wood are located in each bay on the southwest and northeast elevations, save for the western-most bay which only has a door on the southwest elevation. Windows on the building include fixed pane, sliding and hopper aluminum sash and one-over-one double hung vinyl replacement sash. Window openings on the one-story section have been blocked-in. Steel doors, some with large rectangular fixed-pane windows, are located throughout the building.

Cemetery Information

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Bridge Information

National Register Eligibility Information

Historic Context(s): Military/Defense

Historic Time Period(s):..... S- The New Dominion (1941- Present)

Significance Statement: This two-story building, built in 1955, houses fire trucks and firefighting equipment for use on the Wallops Flight Facility (WFF) main base in the event of an aircraft crash, a function that is consistent with its original use. The building was identified as "B-129" on the 1957 "General Development Plan – Naval Air Station, Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" by the U.S. Navy. The building is located on the north side of the main base, directly south of the Air Traffic Control Operations Building (001-0027-0001, WFF # A-001), near the intersection of Jensen and O'Reilly Streets.

The building is representative of a secondary resource associated with a Military/Defense property type that gained importance in the New Dominion (1945-present) period. The building was one of several buildings constructed as part of the Chincoteague Naval Auxiliary Air Station (CNAAS) during the mid-1950s. Established in 1943, CNAAS was used as a training base for Navy aircraft carrier squadrons that would be serving in the Pacific theater of World War II, and to enable Civil Air Patrol to conduct antisubmarine operations off the Atlantic coast. In 1946, the U.S. Navy expanded the mission of CNAAS to include the Naval Air Ordnance Test Station (NAOTS). By 1949, the U.S. Navy discontinued aircraft carrier training and in 1951 CNAAS became a Naval Air Facility, with a primarily research-based mission that corresponded with the mission of NAOTS until the base was closed in 1959. In 1959, the ownership of CNAAS was transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and was renamed Wallops Station. The building has essentially retained its original use throughout its history on the base. The Air Control Fire and Crash Building has been evaluated both as a contributing resource in a historic district and as an individual resource. Issues of significance, integrity, and district boundaries were carefully considered. A proposed district comprising this resource lacks integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association due to the removal of the majority of buildings from the period of significance (1936 to 1959) and the construction of later buildings. Thus a historic district here is not eligible under Criterion A, B, C, or D.

As an individual resource, it is not eligible for listing in the National Register or the Virginia Landmarks Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D as it is not associated with a significant event or individual at the local, state or national level; it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; nor does this property have the potential for providing additional information in history or prehistory.

The resource has lost its integrity due to alterations to the resource and its setting. The building's integrity of design, materials, and workmanship has been adversely affected by numerous additions and the replacement of the building's doors and windows. Although remaining in its historic location, the building's integrity of setting, feeling, and association has been adversely affected by the changes made to the surrounding setting of the base of which it was a part; by 2004, the majority of buildings of this period have been demolished, changing the historic character of the physical environment of the building's historic context.

Bibliographic Documentation

**Department of Historic Resources
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Reference #: 1

Bibliographic RecordType: Map

Author: U.S. Navy

Citation Abbreviation:

Notes: "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia."
1950.

Reference #: 2

Bibliographic RecordType: Map

Author: Giffles and Valet

Citation Abbreviation:

Notes: Giffels and Valet, Engineers and Architects, Detroit, Michigan. "General Plot Plan – Auxiliary
Air Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1942.

Reference #: 3

Bibliographic RecordType: Map

Author: U.S. Navy

Citation Abbreviation:

Notes: "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test
Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1953.

Ownership Information

Graphic Media Documentation

<i>Medium</i>	<i>Depository ID #</i>	<i>Photo Depository</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>File Name</i>
35mm B&W	21525	DHR	2004/07/99	Frames 6-11

Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Events

CRM Event # 1,

Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey

Date: 2003/08/08

Organization or Person: URS Group

VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: .. 2003-0571

CRM Event Notes or Comments: 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700
Bethesda, MD 20814

CRM Event # 2,

Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey

Date: 2004/07/99

Organization or Person: URS Group

VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: .. 2003-0571

CRM Event Notes or Comments: 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
Gaithersburg, MD 20878